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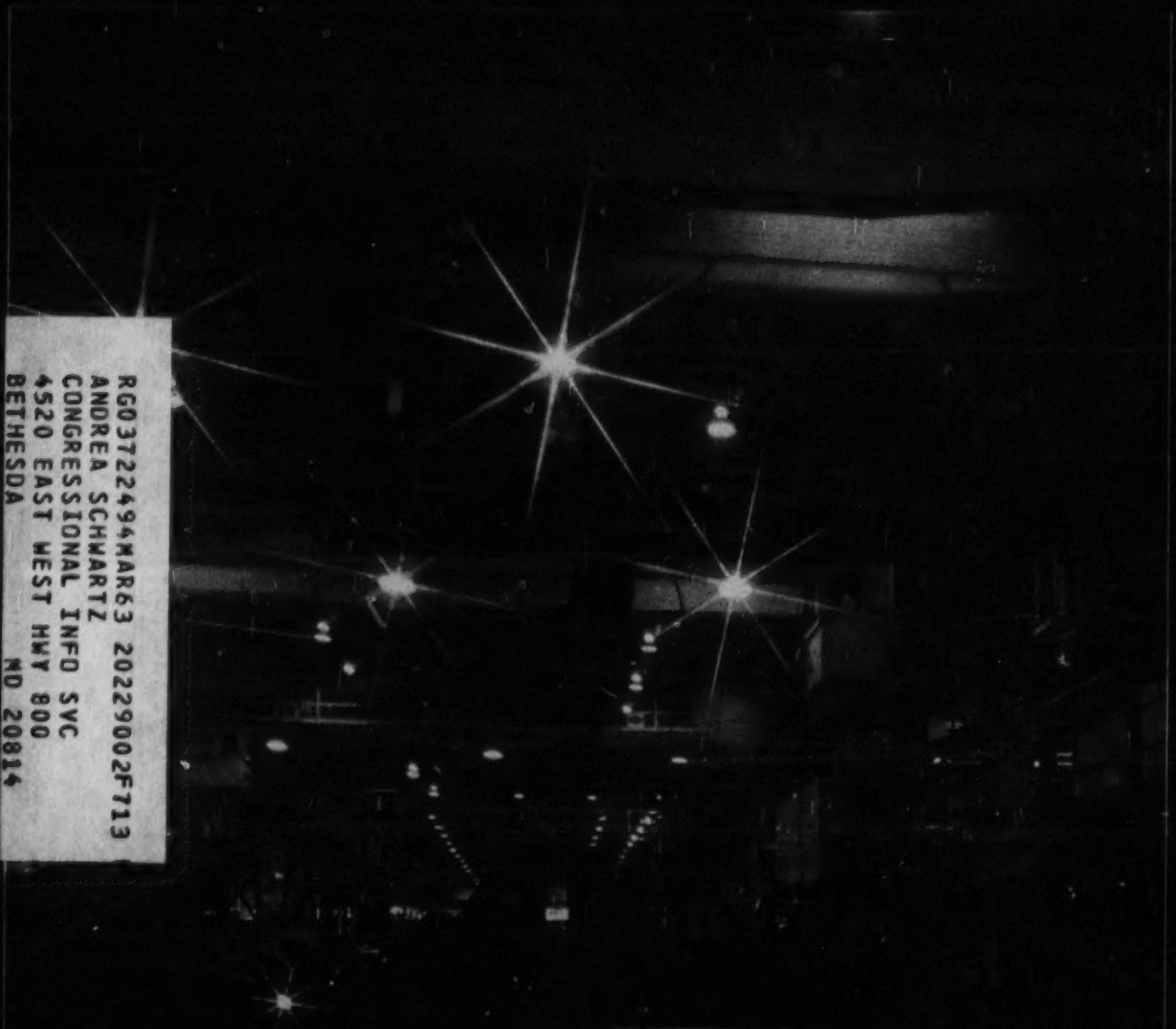
November 8, 1982

RAILWAY AGE

Buffalo: A wedding of light and heavy rail



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Carbuilding: Advancing the state of the art

RAILWAY AGE

November 8, 1982

FEATURES

Cover: FMC's carbuilding plant at Portland, Ore. *Page 18.*

15 The new brake rules and what they will mean
Changes in FRA's power brake rules mean fewer intermediate tests (which could save railroads $100 million a year) but stricter enforcement at initial terminals.

18 FMC: Advancing the state of the carbuilding art
Confident that the freight car market will improve, FMC is busy designing, building and testing prototypes that will give customers more value for the dollar.

23 GE: In training for tomorrow
A new Learning and Communications Center at Erie, Pa., is open for business; GE employees and customers can now receive training in the technology of the future.

26 Buffalo: A wedding of heavy and light rail
Niagara Frontier Transportation Authority's 6.4-mile Light Rail Rapid Transit system (a streetcar/subway mix) is rapidly taking shape in Buffalo.

30 Houston chooses rail transit
It was a choice between a busway and a railway—and the railway won. Now Houston Metro is moving forward with the planning stages of an 18.2-mile rail line.

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Market

CARLOADINGS

Loadings of revenue freight in the week ended Oct. 16 totaled 351,597 cars, according to the Association of American Railroads. This was a decrease of 84,055 cars, or 19.3%, compared with the corresponding week last year. Ton-miles generated by carloadings in the week ended Oct. 16 are estimated at 14.8 billion, a decrease of 20.0% below the corresponding week of 1981.

REVENUE FREIGHT CARLOADINGS

Commodity	Oct. 16 week	Oct. 9 week
Grain	20,226	21,196
Other farm products	4,551	3,525
Metallic ores	13,412	10,564
Coal	113,455	111,320
Crushed stone, gravel & sand	9,403	9,898
Nonmetallic minerals	9,976	10,047
Grain mill products	11,974	12,072
Food & kindred products	13,513	13,416
Primary forest products	13,509	14,552
Lumber & wood products (except furniture)	6,062	5,775
Pulp, paper & allied products	15,054	15,262
Chemicals & allied products	20,784	20,649
Petroleum products	4,538	4,522
Stone, clay & glass products	9,986	10,887
Coke	4,677	4,670
Metals & products	6,535	6,450
Motor vehicles & equipment	13,140	12,456
Waste & scrap materials	7,499	7,351
Forwarder & shipper assn. traffic	7,996	8,246
All other carloads	45,149	46,733
LCL traffic	158	186
Total Cars Loaded	**351,597**	**349,777**
Cumulative total,	1982	1981
42 weeks	**15,190,415**	**17,672,421**
Estimated revenue ton-miles (billions), 42 weeks	**646.9**	**743.3**

PIGGYBACK LOADINGS

U.S. piggyback loadings for the week ended Oct. 9 totaled 41,957 cars (13.9% above the corresponding 1981 week) and 73,882 trailers or containers (up 12.2% from 1981). Cumulative volume for the first 41 weeks of 1982 is 1,498,333 (up 9.5% from 1981) and 2,630,694 trailers or containers (up 6.7% from 1981).

• *Bay Area Rapid Transit District.*—BART Board President Eugene Garfinkle says U.S. suppliers will supply about 65% of the dollar value of components and materials that will go into the manufacture of 150 new BART cars. The prime contractor is the French consortium, SOFERVAL (*RA*, Oct. 25, p. 8). Garfinkle noted that U.S. content of the cars will be about 14% higher than the 'Buy America' policy requires for foreign-supplied equipment that is principally funded with federal money. Garfinkle also said that the SOFERVAL bid of approximately $184 million was nearly $45 million lower than the bid submitted by the Budd Co.

• *Metro Canada.*—Has selected RMS Industrial Controls Inc. of Port Moody, B.C., to supply a communications system for the Light Rapid Transit line the Urban Transit Development Corp. is building in Kingston, Ont. The initial contract is worth in excess of $236,000 (Canadian).

• *New York Metropolitan Transportation Authority.*—Awarded a contract worth approximately $850,000 to Control Systems Ltd. of Kent, England, for the supply of 75 ticket-issuing machines to be used on MTA's Hudson and Harlem and New Haven commuter lines. The specially designed machines will be operated through a keyboard controlling two high-speed matrix printers. The microprocessor-controlled machines will automatically calculate fares for all types of tickets; they will also capture data for route/revenue analysis.

• *Freight cars and locomotives.*—The following report has been received from the AAR and the ARCI:

DELIVERED

	September 1982	September 1981	August 1982	Nine months 1982	Nine months 1981
Built new by carbuilders	913	3,299	992	13,886	34,431
Build new in RR shops	54	230	68	1,108	2,742
Built new—total	967	3,529	1,060	14,994	37,173
Rebuilt	139	84	98	1,039	847
TOTAL DELIVERED	**1,106**	**3,613**	**1,158**	**16,033**	**38,020**
Locomotives (new and rebuilt)	35	47	25	357	555

ORDERED

To be built new by carbuilders	583	1,743	373	5,758	13,974
To be built new in RR shops	—	—	—	—	253
To be built new—total	583	1,743	373	5,758	14,227
To be rebuilt	600	—	—	600	1,100
TOTAL ORDERED	**1,183**	**1,743**	**373**	**6,358**	**15,327**

ON ORDER AND UNDELIVERED

	October 1 1982	October 1 1981	September 1 1982	Average Backlog 1982	Average Backlog 1981
To be built new by carbuilders	5,337	19,837	6,217	9,005	31,899
To be built new in RR shops	558	2,015	612	889	2,963
To be built new—total	5,895	21,852	6,829	9,894	34,862
To be rebuilt	461	253	—	364	309
TOTAL ON ORDER	**6,356**	**22,105**	**6,829**	**10,258**	**35,171**
Locomotives (new and rebuilt)	75	228	101	162	337